

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming optical system ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of, in order from an object side;  
a first lens, ~~wherein the first lens which~~ is a positive meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward an object side;  
an aperture stop;  
a second lens, ~~wherein the second lens which~~ is a meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward an image side;  
a third lens, ~~wherein the third lens which~~ is a positive meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward the image side; and  
a fourth lens, ~~wherein the fourth lens which~~ is a negative lens having at least one aspherical surface.
2. (Currently Amended) An image forming optical system ~~according to claim 1 comprising~~, in order from an object side:  
a first lens, wherein the first lens is a positive meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward an object side;  
an aperture stop;  
a second lens, wherein the second lens is a meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward an image side;  
a third lens, wherein the third lens is a positive meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward the image side; and  
a fourth lens, wherein the fourth lens is a negative lens, wherein at least one of surfaces of the fourth lens is aspherical and the following condition is satisfied:  
$$-2.0 < \Phi_m / \Phi_p < 0$$
  
where  $\Phi_m$  represents the a power of the fourth lens at the a position of the a maximum light ray height and  $\Phi_p$  represents the a power of the fourth lens at the a paraxial position of the praxis. Here, the power  $\Phi_m$  of the lens at the position with the maximum light height is defined as follows. It is being given by  $\Phi_m = \tan^2 \xi / H_m$ , when a parallel light is entered to the maximum light height where  $H_m$  of the lens to be an object represents the

maximum ray height at the fourth lens, and  $\epsilon$  represents an inclination angle of a ray incident at the position of the maximum ray height  $H_m$  as the ray emerges from the fourth lens, out of parallel rays traveling from the an object-side infinite point of the object side, and an inclined angle after passing through the lens is  $\epsilon$ .

3. (Original) An image forming optical system according to claim 1, wherein the third lens and the fourth lens are composed of plastic material and the following condition is satisfied:

$$15.0 < v_3 - v_4 < 40.0$$

where  $v_3$  represents Abbe's number of the third lens and  $v_4$  represents Abbe's number of the fourth lens.

4. (Currently Amended) An image forming optical system according to claim 1, satisfying the following condition:

$$0.1 < r_1/f < 2.0$$

where  $r_1/f$  represents a radius of curvature at the object-side of an object-side surface of the first lens, and  $f$  represents a focal length of the whole optical system.

5. (Original) An image forming optical system according to claim 1, satisfying the following conditions:

$$0.5 < f_{123}/f_4 < 3.0$$

$$1.0 < f/f_4 < 5.0$$

where  $f_{123}$  represents a composite focal length of the first lens, the second lens and the third lens, and  $f$  represents a focal length of the whole optical system.

6. (Original) An image forming optical system according to claim 1, satisfying the following condition:

$$0 < f_1/f_{234} < 3.0$$

where  $f_1$  represents a focal length of the first lens, and  $f_{234}$  represents a composite focal length of the second lens, the third lens and the fourth lens.

7. (Currently Amended) An image forming optical system according to claim 1, comprising, in order from an object side:

a first lens, wherein the first lens is a positive meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward an object side;

an aperture stop;

a second lens, wherein the second lens is a meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward an image side;

a third lens, wherein the third lens is a positive meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward the image side; and

a fourth lens, wherein the fourth lens is a negative lens,

satisfying the following condition:

$$0.4 < EXP/f < 2.0$$

where  $EXP$  represents a distance of ~~to~~ an exit pupil from an image surface and  $f$  is a focal length of the whole image forming optical system.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming optical system ~~according to claim 1 comprising, in order from an object side:~~

a first lens, wherein the first lens is a positive meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward an object side;

an aperture stop;

a second lens, wherein the second lens is a meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward an image side;

a third lens, wherein the third lens is a positive meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward the image side; and

a fourth lens, wherein the fourth lens is a negative lens,

satisfying the following condition:

$$0.40[1/\mu\text{m}] < Fno/P[\mu\text{m}] < 2.20[1/\mu\text{m}]$$

where  $Fno$  represents a fully opened F number of the image forming optical system, and  $P$  represents a pixel interval of an ~~imaging~~ image pickup element arranged at on the image side of the fourth lens.

9. (Currently Amended) An image forming optical system ~~according to claim 1 comprising, in order from an object side:~~

a first lens, wherein the first lens is a positive meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward an object side;

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an aperture stop;

a second lens, wherein the second lens is a meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward an image side;

a third lens, wherein the third lens is a positive meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward the image side; and

a fourth lens, wherein the fourth lens is a negative lens,

satisfying the following condition:

$$0.45 < ML/TL < 0.100$$

where  $TL$  represents a total length of the image forming optical system and  $ML$  represents ~~the~~ a minimum axial thickness on the axis of a plastic lens composing lenses included in the image forming optical system.

10. (Original) An electronic apparatus equipped with the image forming optical system according to claim 1.

11. (New) An electronic apparatus equipped with the image forming optical system according to claim 2.

12. (New) An electronic apparatus equipped with the image forming optical system according to claim 7.

13. (New) An electronic apparatus equipped with the image forming optical system according to claim 8.

14. (New) An electronic apparatus equipped with the image forming optical system according to claim 9.